

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1.-11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) The process of ~~Claim 11~~Claim 15, wherein the polysaccharide is selected from the group consisting of pullulan, amylopectin, amylose, dextran, hydroxyethyl cellulose, hydroxyethyl dextran, mannan, levan, inulin, chitin, chitosan, xyloglucan and water-soluble cellulose.

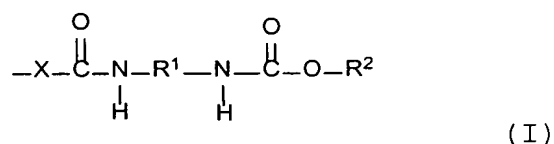
13. (Currently Amended) The process of ~~Claim 7~~Claim 15, wherein the treating step is performed at least two times.

14. (Currently Amended) The process of ~~Claim 7~~Claim 15, wherein the treating pressure is from 98-294 MPa.

15. (New) A process for forming aggregates of a hydrophobic group-containing polysaccharide, comprising  
mixing the hydrophobic group-containing polysaccharide with water in an amount of 30-10,000 times the weight of the hydrophobic group-containing polysaccharide to form a swollen dispersion of the hydrophobic group-containing polysaccharide and  
treating the swollen dispersion of the hydrophobic group-containing polysaccharide in a high pressure homogenizer which jets the hydrophobic group-containing polysaccharide under a pressure of from 9.8-490 MPa from an orifice into a chamber to form a dispersion of monodisperse aggregates of the hydrophobic group-containing polysaccharide having a particle

size of 10-30 nm and molecules of the polysaccharide having a number of association of from 3-20,

wherein the hydrophobic group-containing polysaccharide contains -XH groups, X being an oxygen atom or a nitrogen-containing group represented by NY, Y being a hydrogen atom or a hydrocarbon group of 1-10 carbon atoms, and 0.1-10 -XH groups per 100 monosaccharide units constituting the polysaccharide are replaced by one or more hydrophobic groups of formula (I)



in which X is as defined above,  $\text{R}^1$  is a hydrocarbon group having 1-50 carbon atoms and  $\text{R}^2$  denotes a steryl group.